

Our institute, the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), has developed as a center of excellence in research, education, and inter-university collaboration in the various fields of basic biology since its foundation in 1977. In 2004, NIBB, together with four other national research institutes, established a new organization, the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), one of four Inter-University Research Institute Corporations. In order to carry out our mission, we have focused our efforts on five major activities, namely Promotion of Collaborative Research Projects, Promotion of Academic Research, Development of New Academic Fields, Cultivation of Future Researchers, and International Cooperation. Our works and results for 2009 are shown in this report.

In 2009, we welcomed six new colleagues, while six colleagues left the institute as shown on page 7. The results of our research groups are reported from page 8 to 74. The activities of our supporting divisions are shown on the following pages 75–84.

As international collaborative activities, we hosted the 9th NIBB-EMBL (European Molecular Biology Institute) joint meeting in Okazaki. We also participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> NIBB-EMBL student symposium in Heidelberg, and the 1<sup>st</sup> NIBB-MPIZ (Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research) joint symposium in Cologne as shown on pages 85-87. In addition, we held two practical training courses with lectures and technical training. One of the courses was held for students and young researchers interested in learning about a new model plant, *Physcomitrella patens*. The other newly instituted course was held for those desiring a fundamental knowledge of microarray analysis, as reported on page 88.

In addition to research, the education of the next generation of researchers is another important aim of NIBB. As a department of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, we are happy we have the opportunity to educate graduate students. At present, we have 39 students, as reported on page 6.



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